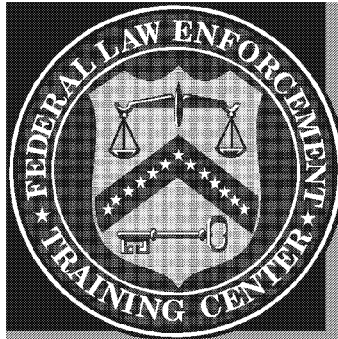


FINAL

**Environmental Assessment for the
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
Land Transfer,
Artesia, New Mexico**



Prepared for:

**Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
1300 West Richey Avenue
Artesia, NM 88210**

and:

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District
4101 Jefferson Plaza NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109-3455**

Prepared by:

**Science Applications International Corporation
2109 Air Park Road SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106**

JULY 2002



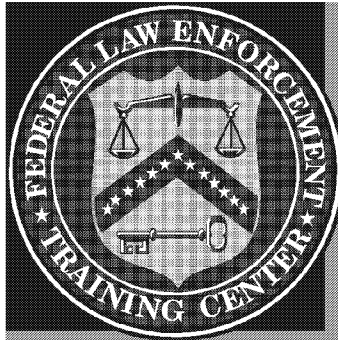
**US Army Corps
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

° F	degrees Fahrenheit	NMRPTC	New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council
AAM	Annual Arithmetic Mean	NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
AAQS	Ambient Air Quality Standards	NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	OSHA	Occupational Health and Safety Administration
AGM	Annual Geometric Mean	O ₃	ozone
AUM	animal unit month	OAo	Office of Artesia Operations
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	Pb	lead
CAA	Clean Air Act	PCPI	per capita personal income
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	PLSS	Public Land Survey System
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act	PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter
CFO	Carlsbad Field Office	PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	ppm	parts per million
CO	carbon monoxide	PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
EA	Environmental Assessment	RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
EO	Executive Order	REC	recognized environmental concern
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement	RMP	Resource Management Plan
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment	ROI	region of influence
FLEFA	Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act	ROW	right-of-way
FLETC	Federal Law Enforcement Training Center	SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act	SLO	State Land Office
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact	SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
GPS	Global Positioning System	TSP	Total Suspended Particulates
H ₂ S	hydrogen sulfide	USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
µg/m ³	micrograms per cubic meter	USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
mph	miles per hour	USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards	USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	VRM	Visual Resource Management
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act		
NMDGF	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish		
NMED	New Mexico Environment Department		

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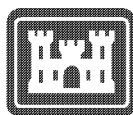
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JULY 2002



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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

1.0 NAME OF ACTION

Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center Land Transfer, Artesia, New Mexico.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The Department of the Treasury's Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) currently provides law enforcement training programs at its Special Training Complex in Artesia, New Mexico. The complex is used to provide firearms and driver training to law enforcement personnel. The complex is located north of the Artesia Municipal Airport. FLETC owns 1,040 acres of land at the complex. An additional 240 acres of New Mexico state-owned land is leased to FLETC for use as an ammunition safety zone, and 240 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land has a right-of-way (ROW) issued to FLETC for their exclusive use, subject to valid existing mineral leases. FLETC is in need of additional land downrange from its firearms training ranges in order to expand training capabilities.

Under the proposal, the State of New Mexico is offering 440 acres (and the mineral estate) to the BLM in exchange for 640 acres of BLM land and mineral estate located about nine miles to the west. BLM has selected 640 acres lands located about nine miles to the west and would exchange all or a portion of this land (of equivalent value) to the State. After the exchange, BLM would transfer 1,280 acres (of BLM surface and the Federal mineral estate) and 640 acres of Federal mineral estate underlying FLETC-owned land to FLETC, increasing their land holding to 2,320 acres. With the additional land, FLETC would be able to provide both handgun (current) and rifle (proposed) training, using ammunitions with longer firing distances. The larger safety zones would be contained in its enlarged land holding. FLETC is also anticipating increases overall in firearms training.

FLETC would construct a perimeter fence around the newly acquired land and a small portion of their current landholding. About 7.5 miles of five-strand barbed wire fence (with smooth bottom strand) would be installed. Construction would take place outside the general migratory bird nesting seasons. The fence alignment would avoid potential habitat for nesting sites for aplomado falcons, specifically, yuccas with stick nests. FLETC also proposes to allow for continued use of a road and water pipeline that is critical to ranching operations on the existing grazing allotment that encompasses the transferred lands, although grazing on 800 acres of the transferred lands would cease in 2004. Mineral estates would be transferred with surface estate in all transactions. FLETC would discontinue future mineral leasing on the conveyed land, but existing mineral leases would continue.

No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, the proposed land exchange and land transfer would not occur and new perimeter fencing would not be constructed. While there would be no environmental impact from not implementing these actions, FLETC would continue to limit firearms training to handguns and ammunition types that can be safely contained within their current land holding.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

3.1 Earth Resources

There would be minor temporary soil disturbance from digging holes for fence post installation. Using care to minimize damage to soil-protecting vegetation from vehicles during construction would minimize

impacts. Lead from munitions debris accumulates in firing ranges, but due to soil conditions, climate, and range designs, is not a health concern. Overall, impacts would be minimal.

3.2 Mineral Resources

The BLM's Carlsbad Field Office (CFO) in southeastern New Mexico manages oil and gas resources, and use of approximately 2,197,000 acres of both surface and subsurface estate. The CFO also manages an additional 1.9 million acres of Federal mineral estate where the surface is managed by other surface management agencies (Federal or state), or private owners. Withdrawal of about 1,920 acres of Federal surface and subsurface from the public land laws and the mining laws, but not from the mineral leasing laws, represents a very small portion of regional resource. Existing mineral leases would be honored, but conditions of approval may be constrained by existing firing range activities under both the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives.

3.3 Water Resources

There would be no impact to water resources associated with minimal soil disturbance. Alkalinity of soil types in the project area and low precipitation minimize the potential for lead from munitions debris from entering the surface or groundwater. No permits under Section 404 would be required.

3.4 Air Quality

There may be minor temporary dust generation from vehicles driving over unpaved areas and from posthole digging during fence installation, but there would be no impact on attainment status of Eddy County from these activities. Because outdoor ranges are exposed to the air, there are no concerns about lead or other residues exceeding regulated levels for pollutants. No other changes in operations at FLETC are proposed, therefore no impacts would result.

3.5 Biological Resources

There could be minor loss of habit from fence construction, but not enough to be a concern for wildlife or sensitive species. The new fence would be aligned to avoid soaptree yuccas with stick nests. Aplomado falcons use stick nests built by other birds. Avoiding disturbance to these nests would minimize impacts to potential aplomado falcon habitat. Decreased grazing on 800 acres could provide minor benefits for some species, and minor negative effects for others, but not to a degree that is a concern for sensitive species. Using smooth wire for the bottom strand of the fence would allow for movement of game in potential antelope habitat. No impacts from increased firearms training would result. Observed animal fatalities would be monitored for potentially high levels of lead.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concurs that there would be no adverse effect on Federally-listed or proposed species. Construction of new fence would not occur during migratory nesting season and soaptree yuccas that provide potential nests for aplomado falcons would be avoided.

3.6 Cultural Resources

The two historic archaeological sites located on lands associated with the Proposed Action require evaluation for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility. Neither site is located where new fence would be constructed and no potential for impact is identified. The eligibility evaluation and consultation with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), would be completed prior to project initiation.

3.7 Aesthetics

There would be minimal changes in the overall landscape from fence construction. Given the relative low visual resource value of the subject lands and low potential to modify the landscape character, there would be no visual impact. Also, no change in noise levels would result.

3.8 Human Health and Safety

The proposed land transfer would have minimal potential to adversely affect human health and safety. Current procedures and training of students and personnel comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. FLETC's maintenance and operations of firing ranges complies with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulations. Fencing the acquired land would control public access into areas where there may be hazards from activities at downrange firing ranges. The potential for lead to pose a human health or safety concern is considered extremely low because of the alkalinity of the soil type, climate, and design of firing ranges. Implementation of the proposed action also supports increased capabilities in training our nation's law enforcement personnel. This action therefore supports an important indirect benefit for homeland security.

3.9 Land Use and Access

Withdrawal of about 1,920 acres from public land, and mining laws, would have little effect on land use and access. There would be a slight decrease in permitted grazing land (800 acres) and no access for mining. In both cases, the extent of land affected represents an insignificant portion of the overall resource in the CFO and greater region. FLETC would allow for continued use of a roadway and water pipeline in the north end of Sections 27 and 28 that are critical for grazing operations in the Brangus allotment. The proposed land transactions are consistent with the CFO Resource Management Plan (RMP) that identifies the subject lands within a disposal zone. Loss of access to the public on 800 acres in Sections 27 and 28 would have minimal impact on dispersed activities such as recreation and hunting due to lack of opportunities on this acreage and availability of abundant alternative land for these uses.

3.10 Solid and Hazardous Materials and Waste

Increased firearms training would contribute to accumulations of munitions debris at firing ranges, and possibly to increased accumulation of lead and other metals, particularly in perimeter berms and bullet traps at firing ranges. A very small amount of such debris may be scattered over the expanded safety zone. FLETC would continue to manage ranges and any other accumulated hazardous wastes in accordance with Federal regulations. No impact is expected.

3.11 Socioeconomics

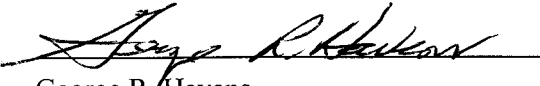
There would be no impact on regional or local economic activity or population dynamics. There would be minor impact on two ranchers resulting from higher grazing fees to one rancher and loss of grazing land for up to 15 head of cattle for another. Withdrawal of 1,040 acres from future mineral production represents an extremely small portion of potential resource in the region.

3.12 Environmental Justice

No significant environmental impacts are expected from the proposed land transactions and fence construction, therefore, there is no potential to affect minority and low-income populations or children in the area. Minor economic impacts on two ranching households may result.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The Proposed Action would allow FLETC to control land within expanded safety zones of firing ranges, and to thereby expand its training capabilities safely. On the basis of the findings of the EA, no significant impact is anticipated from the proposed project on human health or the natural environment. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is warranted and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for this action.


George R. Havens
Assistant Director
Office of Artesia Operations
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center


Date

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Department of the Treasury's Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) currently provides training to law enforcement personnel at its main campus in Glynco, Georgia, and at a smaller facility in Artesia, New Mexico. The Office of Artesia Operations (OAO) consists of a main campus located within the City of Artesia, and the Special Training Complex, located three miles west of the main campus. The Special Training Complex is used for training law enforcement personnel in firearms and driving. The regional location of the project is shown on **Figure 1.0-1**.

FLETC is proposing to acquire 1,280 acres through a Federal land transfer from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Carlsbad Field Office (CFO) in order to increase its land holding for the Special Training Complex. The proposal also includes a land exchange between the New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands, State Land Office (SLO) and the BLM in order to consolidate lands for the proposed Federal land transfer. With the additional land, FLETC would expand its existing firearms training program.

1.1 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

With increased demands for training of law enforcement personnel, the need to provide firearms training has also increased. This need has been accentuated by recent events and new homeland security interests. To meet these needs, FLETC needs to enlarge safety buffer areas around its firearms ranges. This is best accomplished by acquiring lands to provide FLETC positive control of these areas.

The project area, shown in **Figure 1.1-1** and **Figure 1.1-2**, is 2,960 acres and includes all the lands currently held by FLETC and all lands involved in the land exchange and land transfer. FLETC owns 1,040 acres at the Special Training Complex. FLETC also uses 240 acres of New Mexico state-owned land in Township 16 South, Range 25 East, Sections 33 and 34 (T16S, R25E, and Sections 33 and 34) that is leased to FLETC for use as an ammunition safety zone. On the south side of the complex, 240 acres of BLM land has a right-of-way (ROW) issued to FLETC (in , T17S, R25E, Section 3). These areas are part of the subject lands of the proposed land transaction.

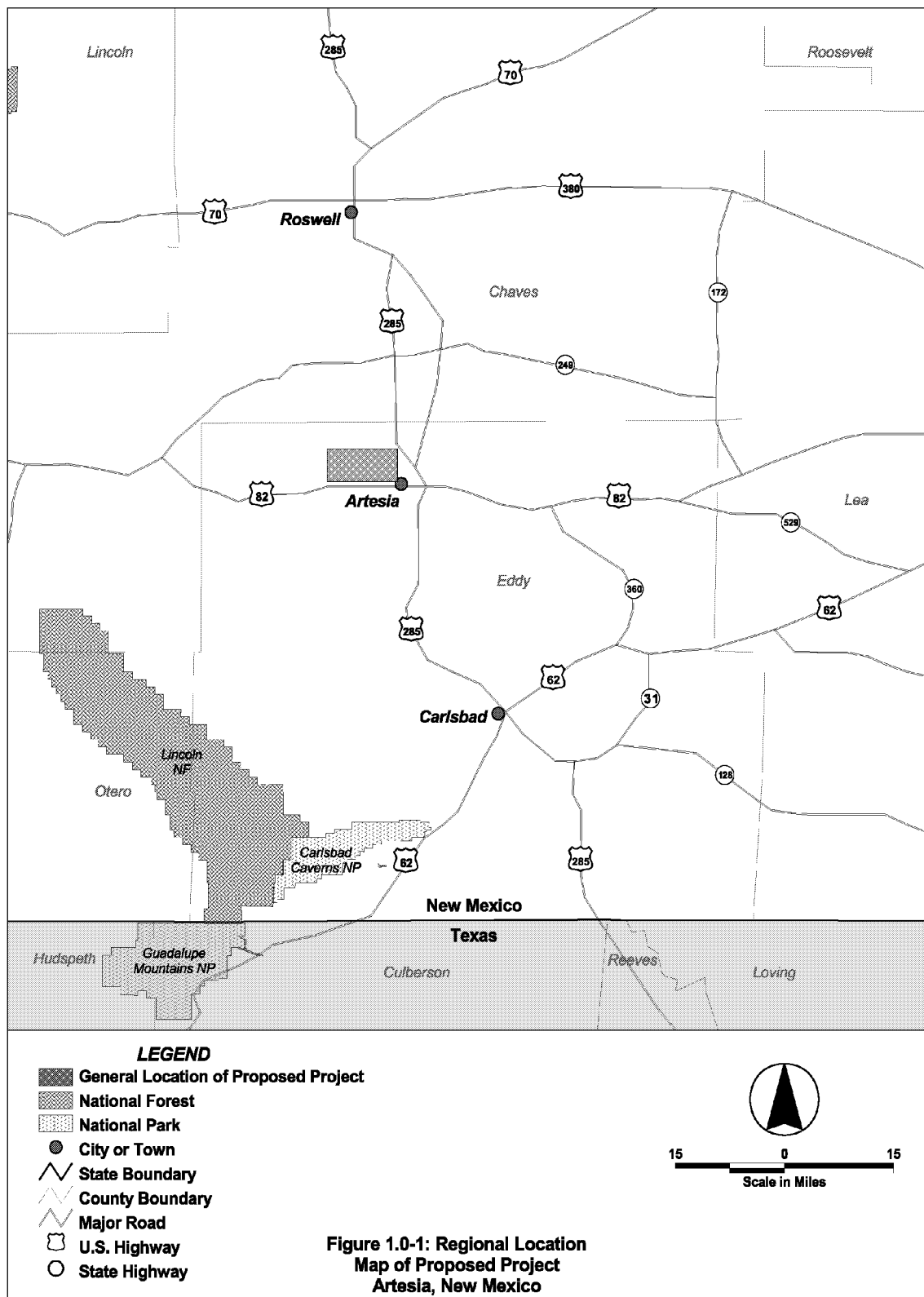
Firearms training provided at the Special Training Complex is currently limited to pistols, handguns, and ammunition types that have a firing distance that is contained within FLETC's current land holding. The safety zones extend 2,160 meters (7,000 feet) downrange of the firing ranges. FLETC projects an increase in the volume of firearms training, and also proposes to expand training capabilities to include use of rifles and ammunitions with firing distances up to 3,100 meters (10,170 feet) downrange of the firing ranges. Both the existing safety zones and proposed safety zones are shown on Figure 1.1-1.

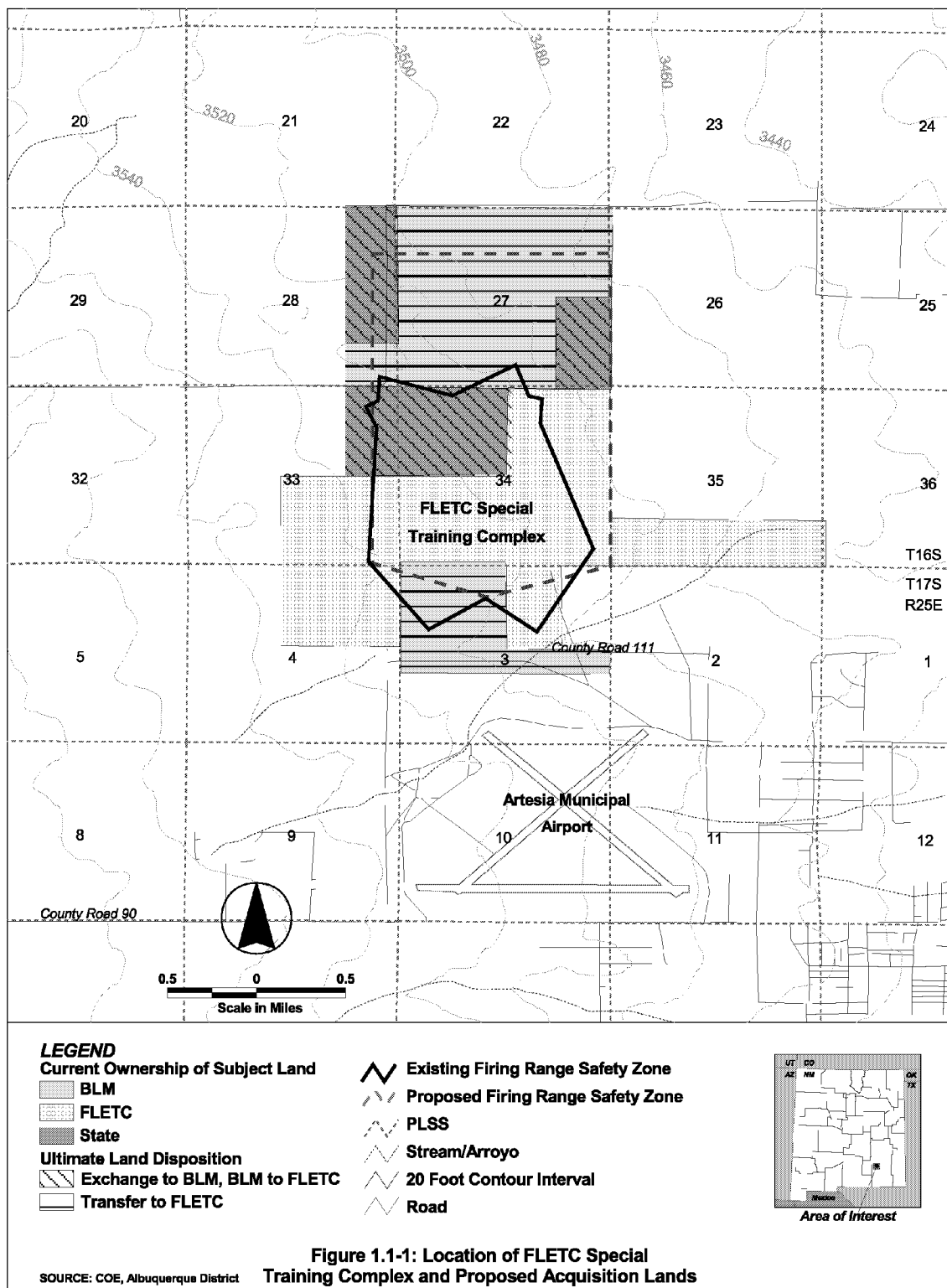
Some of the land within proposed safety zones is outside of the area owned or leased to FLETC. Therefore, FLETC is in need of additional land to contain expanded safety zones for its firearms training ranges. The need to acquire land was identified as a long-range requirement in an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared when the complex was first established in 1990, although the current proposal was not identified at that time.

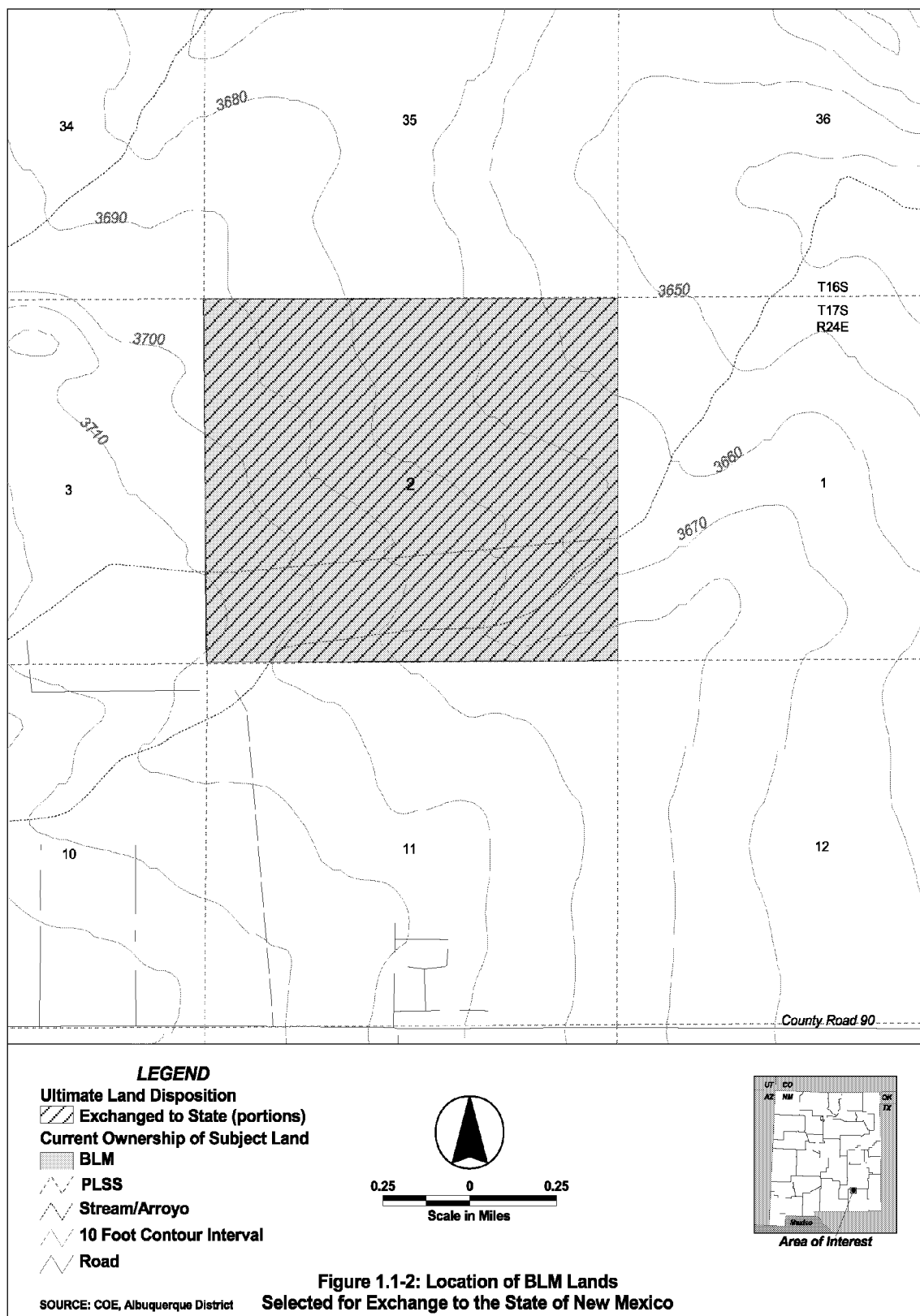
1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

1.2.1 Project Location

The subject lands are located in southeastern New Mexico in Eddy County, on the north side of the City of Artesia. The project involves 2,960 acres of land, of which 2,320 contiguous acres are located at and adjacent to the Special Training Complex just north of the Artesia Municipal Airport, and 640 acres are located about nine miles to the west.







1.2.2 Project Description

The project involves exchange of land of equal value between the SLO and BLM, and subsequently, transfer of 1,280 acres from BLM to FLETC. The exchange would occur under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended by the Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act (FLEFA) of 1988. The exchange involves 440 acres of state land (the “offered” land) and up to 640 acres of BLM land (the “selected” land). The ultimate goal of the exchange is to facilitate a transfer of public land and mineral estate to FLETC. The exchange is being considered to accomplish that goal (BLM 2001a).

The land acquired by FLETC would be used as an ammunition safety zone. All exchanges and transfer would also include surface and subsurface mineral estates to the receiving entity. FLETC would provide signage and install about 7.5 miles of perimeter fencing around the acquired land and some areas already within its control.

The Federal-to-Federal land transfer would also occur under the authority of FLPMA. The proposed land transactions conform with the CFO Resource Management Plan (RMP). The subject lands are within an area identified for disposal. The offered state lands and selected BLM exchange lands are not within an area that is managed to protect special resource values.

1.3 REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

This EA is being prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations including the BLM’s NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1). This document will be sent to Federal, state, and local agencies in accordance with the Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning process. This review process is conducted to comply with the Intergovernmental Coordination Act of 1968 and Executive Order (EO) 12372, which requires Federal agencies to obtain and consider state and local views in implementing a proposal. A list of the agencies participating in this process and the distribution list for this EA are provided in Appendix A.

In addition to NEPA and those laws listed above, numerous Federal environmental statutes, regulations, and EOs may apply to the Proposed Action. Adherence to these Federal requirements, as well as state and local regulations, is part of this EA. The following is a list of these regulatory guidelines:

- EO 11514, Protection and Enhancement of Environment Quality
- EO 11988, Floodplain Management
- EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands
- EO 12196, Occupational Safety and Health of Federal Employees
- EO 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal programs
- EO 12898, Environmental Justice
- EO 13045, Protection of Children
- EO 13084, Consultation with Indian Tribal Governments
- EO 13112, Invasive Species
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Farmland Protection Policy Act

-
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended
 - National Historic Preservation Act
 - New Mexico Air and Water Quality Standards
 - Occupational Safety and Health Act
 - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
 - Solid Waste Disposal Act
 - Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act

1.4 ORGANIZATION OF DOCUMENT

This EA is arranged in six major chapters.

- Chapter 1 provides the purpose and need of the Proposed Action.
- Chapter 2 provides a description of the proposed alternatives, and summary of impacts.
- Chapter 3 describes the existing conditions of the affected environment of the subject lands and/or associated region of potential impact. This section addresses eleven specific resource categories.
- Chapter 4 provides the analysis of potential impacts to the resources and community characteristics as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Action and the No Action alternatives.
- Chapter 5 provides the references cited.
- Chapter 6 provides a list of persons contacted during preparation of the EA.
- Chapter 7 provides a list of the preparers of this document.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION

2.1.1 Land Exchange

The New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands, acting through the SLO, has entered into an agreement for a land exchange with the BLM. In the agreement, the SLO is offering state-owned land in exchange for selected public lands of equal fair market value. The offered lands are part of the State Trust Lands held in trust to benefit New Mexico's public schools and other public institutions. It is mandated by law that the state trust lands be used to generate revenues to benefit these institutions. The exchange would provide the State of New Mexico with lands of like value that would enable the SLO to meet its mandate to generate revenues for the trust beneficiaries. The exchange would include both surface and subsurface mineral estates to the receiving entities (BLM 2001a).

The offered state lands comprise five parcels totaling 440 acres. **Table 2.1-1** provides the legal descriptions of these lands. The offered lands are located partially or wholly within proposed expanded safety zones of FLETC's firing ranges (see Figure 1.1-1), and use of these lands would therefore be restricted. The lands within T16S, R25E, Sections 33 and 34 (240 acres) have been leased to FLETC beginning in 1996 until the end of 2002 for use as an ammunition trajectory safety zone. This area has been fenced to prevent public access, and grazing has been suspended since that time. A grazing lease to Chase Farms continues on 200 acres in T16S, R25E Sections 27 and 28 until September 30, 2004. This lease would be honored for the duration of the lease period, after which it would not be renewed. There are two 50-foot wide natural gas pipeline ROWs (RW-19329 and RW-19320) issued in 1977. RW-19320 crosses Sections 28 and 34 and RW-19329 crosses Section 28. The ROWs are perpetual with right of reversion, and the pipelines are in use. The use of these ROWs would continue after the land transactions.

Table 2.1-1. Legal Description of Subject Lands in Proposed Land Exchange and Land Transfer for the FLETC, Artesia, New Mexico

<i>Current Owner</i>	<i>Location</i>		<i>Disposition</i>
State Land	T16S, R25E,	S27, E2SE (80 acres)	Exchange land and mineral estate w/ BLM; BLM transfer land and minerals to FLETC
		S28, E2NE (80 acres)	Exchange land and mineral estate w/ BLM; BLM transfer land and minerals to FLETC
		S28, NESE (40 acres)	Exchange land and mineral estate w/ BLM; BLM transfer land and minerals to FLETC
		S33, E2NE (80 acres)	Exchange land and mineral estate w/ BLM; BLM transfer land and minerals to FLETC
		S34, NW (160 acres)	Exchange land and mineral estate w/ BLM; BLM transfer land and minerals to FLETC

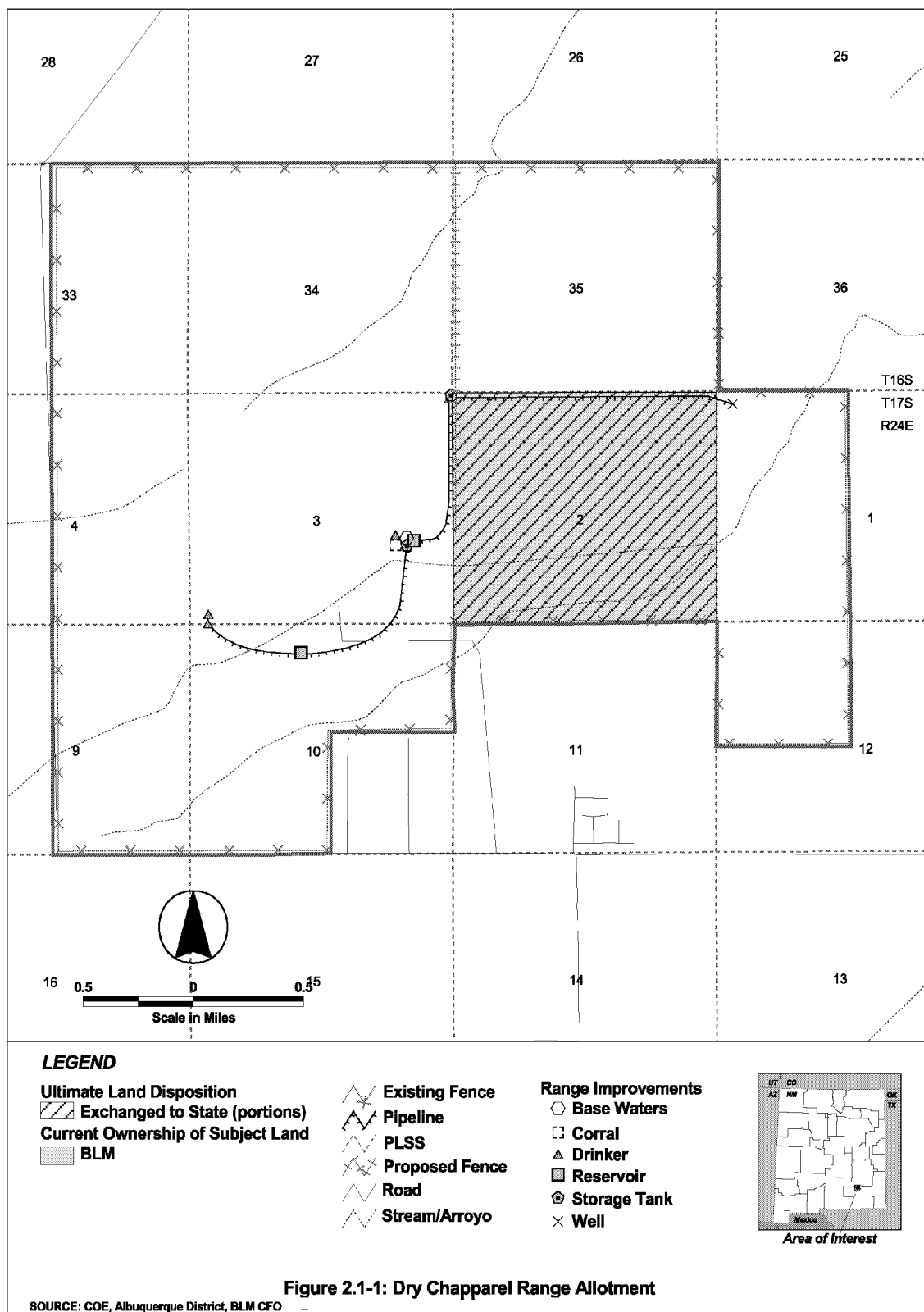
<i>Current Owner</i>	<i>Location</i>		<i>Disposition</i>
BLM Land	T16S, R25E,	S27, N2 (320 acres)	BLM land and Federal mineral estate to transfer to FLETC
		S27, SW (160 acres)	BLM land and Federal mineral estate to transfer to FLETC
		S27, W2SE (80 acres)	BLM land and Federal mineral estate to transfer to FLETC
	T16S, R25E,	S28, SESE (40 acres)	BLM land to transfer to FLETC
	T17S, R24E,	S2, (640 acres)	BLM selected land exchanged to State of New Mexico
	T17S, R25E,	S3, NW (160 acres)	ROW land to transfer to FLETC
		S3, N2N2S2 (80 acres)	ROW land to transfer to FLETC
FLETC Land	T17S, R25E,	S3, W2NE (80 acres)	No change
		S4, NE (160 acres)	BLM transfer all Federal minerals to FLETC
	T16S, R25E,	S33, SE (160 acres)	BLM transfer all Federal minerals to FLETC
		S34, S2 (320 acres)	BLM transfer Federal minerals in SW to FLETC
		S34, NE (160 acres)	No change
		S35, S2S2 (160 acres)	BLM transfer all Federal minerals to FLETC

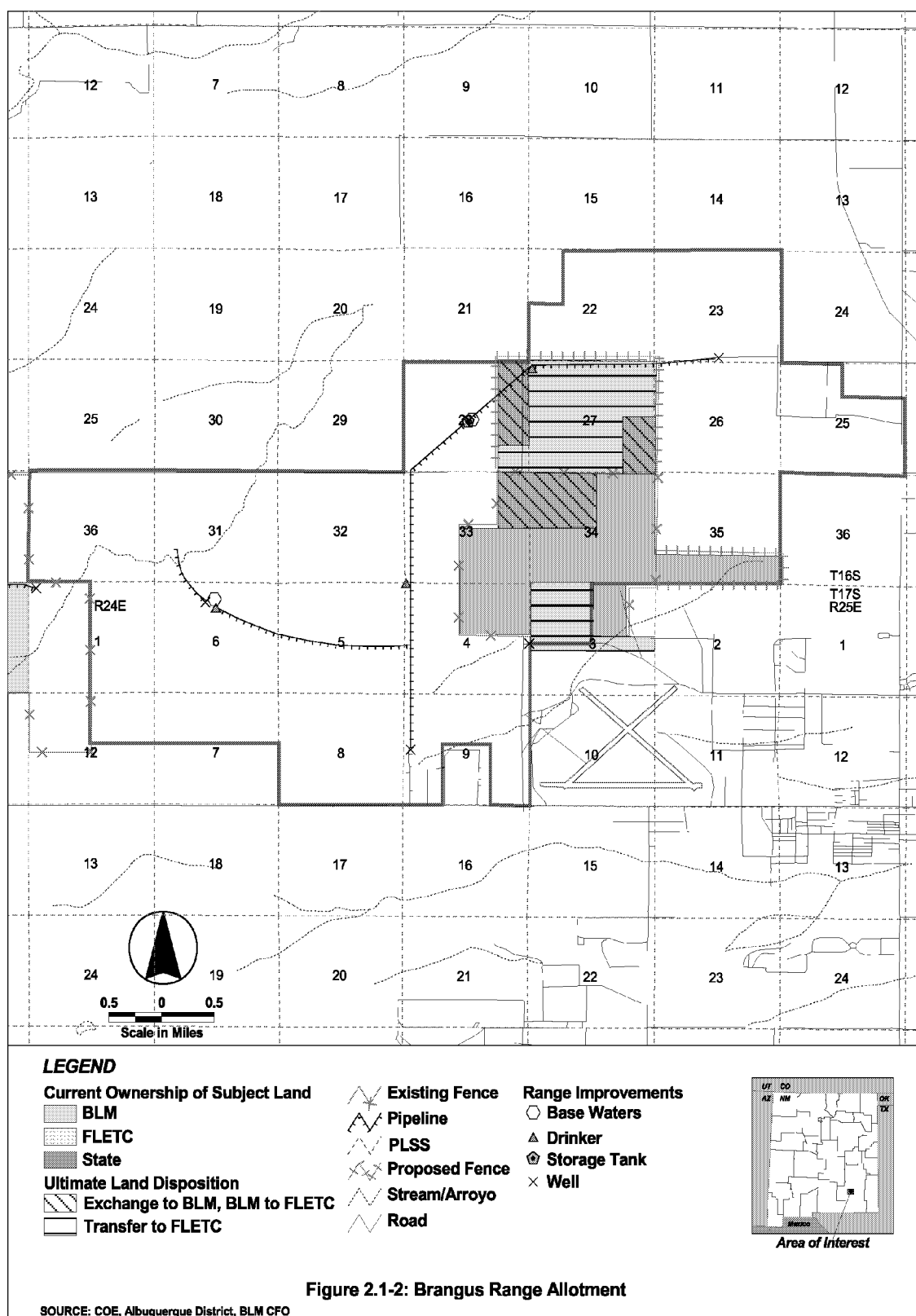
Source: USACE 2001.

In exchange for the offered lands, the State of New Mexico would receive 640 acres of BLM land in T17S, R24E, Section 2. The selected BLM lands are shown in Figure 1.1-2. Section 2 is within the Dry Chaparral grazing allotment shown in **Figure 2.1-1**. BLM would provide a two-year notice to terminate the lease. The State of New Mexico intends to continue grazing uses on this land under a competitive lease process (Britt 2001).

2.1.2 Land Transfer

Upon completion of the land exchange, BLM would transfer 1,280 acres of Federal surface and mineral estate, and 640 acres of Federal mineral estate underlying FLETC-owned land to FLETC (see Figure 1.1-1). As part of the Federal land exchange process, FLETC would make an application for withdrawal of about 1,920 acres from public access and use under the public land laws and mining laws, and for permanent transfer of jurisdiction (Hougland 2001). These lands are all contained within the Brangus grazing allotment shown in **Figure 2.1-2**. FLETC would use the newly acquired land to support its law enforcement training program. With control of land in Sections 27 and 28, FLETC proposes to expand its ammunition safety zone to allow training with rifles, using munitions with longer firing distances. Also, FLETC anticipates an overall increase in firearms training and the volume of munitions expended. After expiration of the existing grazing lease (on 800 acres) in Section 27 and 28, there would be no further grazing on the transferred land. FLETC would purchase existing improvements or provide equivalent facilities to the allotment permit holder. FLETC intends to issue an easement to allow continued use of an existing roadway and water pipeline along the north edge of Section 27 to the allotment permit holder.





FLETC would not issue new leases for grazing and would work with the BLM on any new mineral leasing. Existing mineral leases would be honored by FLETC and managed by BLM. Applications to perform exploratory drilling or to extract mineral resources would be coordinated with FLETC. Existing ROWs for an underground natural gas pipeline to Agave Energy Company in Sections 28 and 34 (see Figure 1.1-1) would continue under FLETC. The pipeline owner would be required to coordinate with FLETC prior to conducting any future downrange fieldwork or maintenance.

2.1.3 Physical Improvements

FLETC proposes to install up to 7.5 miles of perimeter fencing around the lands acquired in this transfer, and their existing land with Section 35 (160 acres). (Thereafter, this land would not be accessible for grazing.) Other areas along the southern boundary may also have new fence installed. The new fence would be a five-foot high, five-strand barbwire fence (smooth bottom strand) with metal T-posts (six feet, six inches in height), at 16-foot intervals. The T-posts would be set 18 inches below grade. Metal corner posts with braces and pull posts (spaced every 800 feet) would be set in concrete to a minimum depth of 24 inches below grade. The fence would generally follow the boundary of FLETC's land. The alignment would avoid soaptree yuccas that contain stick nests, which are potential nesting habitat for northern aplomado falcon. Fence construction would not occur during migratory bird nesting season (from March through August). Also, a water tub ("drinker") on the pipeline in the northwest corner of Section 27 would be moved or replaced at a location on the pipeline outside the FLETC land in Section 28. The new fence would have signage indicating that the enclosed area is hazardous and closed to public access.

2.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under this alternative, there would be no land exchange or land transfer. Existing leases, ROWs, and uses of the subject lands would remain unchanged.

2.3 CUMULATIVE AND INDIRECT IMPACTS

Cumulative environmental impacts are most likely to arise when a relationship exists between a Proposed Action and other actions expected to occur in the region of influence (ROI) in a similar time period. Projects in close proximity to the Proposed Action could have a greater potential for a relationship that would result in potential cumulative impacts than those more geographically separated. Various agencies (Federal, state, or local) or persons can propose and implement these projects.

In the future, there may be additional fluid mineral leasing and development of facilities for oil and natural gas production in the general vicinity of the subject lands. Development would be governed by existing stipulations and densities that apply throughout the CFO. There is no planned urban-type development or expansion of the Artesia Municipal Airport or City of Artesia that would encroach on FLETC from the south or east. Other uses on lands surrounding the FLETC to the east, north and west are not expected to change.

Indirect effects are caused by the action and occur later in time or are further removed in distance and must be reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air, water, and other natural systems (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1508[b]). No significant indirect effects have been identified in this EA.

2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD

FLETC considered constructing a new road and water pipeline in Section 22, north of and parallel to the existing road and pipeline used for ranching operations in the Brangus allotment in Section 27. However, there is no funding available for these improvements. The current proposal would provide an easement for the existing road and pipeline to the rancher and is compatible with training operations. The easement would be well outside the safety zones of the firing ranges. Based on this, no other alternatives were selected for detailed analysis.

2.5 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Impacts associated with each of the resources evaluated in the EA are summarized in **Table 2.5-1**.

Table 2.5-1. Summary of Impacts

<i>Resource</i>	<i>Proposed Action</i>	<i>No Action Alternative</i>
Earth	Minor temporary soil disturbance for fence construction. Minimal impact to soils.	No impact.
Mineral	Withdrawal of about 1,920 acres from the public land, and mining laws, would result in minimal loss of mineral resource potential in CFO. Any proposed new mineral leasing would be coordinated between BLM and FLETC. Minimal loss of mineral resource potential in CFO.	Continue to manage mineral resources subject to constraints of existing firing range activities on FLETC lands.
Water	No impact.	No impact.
Air Quality	No impact on attainment status. Minor temporary dust and vehicular emissions during fence construction.	No impact.
Biological	Minimal loss of habitat from fence construction. Fence alignment to avoid soaptree yuccas with stick nest therefore no impact on potential aplomado falcon nesting habitat. Recommend smooth strand wire on bottom strand to allow for movement of game in potential antelope habitat. Decreased grazing on 960 acres would have minor effects, both beneficial and negative on some species.	No impact.
Cultural	National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility determinations for two sites would be completed prior to land exchange and transfer. No impact expected due to location and limited potential disturbance of proposed fence construction.	No impact.

<i>Resource</i>	<i>Proposed Action</i>	<i>No Action Alternative</i>
Aesthetics	No impact on visual resources or noise conditions.	No impact.
Human Health and Safety	Increase in rate of accumulation of lead at firing ranges, but potential health and safety risk considered low due to soil type, climate, and range design.	Continued accumulation of lead in soil at firing ranges, but potential for health and safety risks considered low due to soil type, climate, and range design.
Land Use and Access	Slight reduction in leasable grazing land (800 acres), which represents minimal portion of grazing land in the CFO. Land transfer consistent with CFO RMP land disposal guidance. Loss of public access to 800 acres for dispersed activities would have minimal impact due to low recreational and hunting opportunities.	No impact.
Hazardous Materials and Waste	Increase in rate of accumulation of bullet debris. Manage wastes in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. No impact expected.	No impact.
Socioeconomics	No impact on local economy or population. Slight increase in costs for one rancher possible, and loss of revenue associated with 12 to 15 head of cattle for a second rancher. Loss of future mineral leasing and production on 1,040 acres is insignificant portion of regional resource.	No impact.
Environmental Justice	No impact to regional or local minority or low-income population or children.	No impact.

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